## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05263 080959Z ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /016 W

-----011896 091115Z/21

R 080947Z SEP 78 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9573 INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 05263

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO, KARACHI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: MSG POST AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

- 1. INITIAL REVIEW BY INCOMING RSO INDICATES THAT A REDUCED MSG POST (DUSK TO DAWN) IS STILL NECESSARY AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, GIVEN THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE INABILITY OF THE SYRIAN POLICE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESIDENCE SECURITY. HOWEVER, THE MSG POST WILL NOT BE VIEWED AS PERMANENT, BUT SUBJECT TO REVIEW EVERY FOUR MONTHS WITH THE AIM OF TERMINATING THIS POST SHOULD THE POLITICAL CLIMATE WARRANT THIS ACTION.
- 2. SEVERAL PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN IN REGARD TO THE HIRING OF THE EIGHT ARMED LOCAL GUARDS PROPOSED BY THE FORMER RSO. POLICE APPROVAL TO ARM THESE GUARDS, ALL OF WHOM ARE RETIRED POLICEMEN, HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. SECONDLY, A NUMBER OF THESE GUARDS WHO WERE ON THE PAYROLL HAVE QUIT.
- 3. AS RECOMMENDED, THE TSO, ATHENS PLANS TO INSTALL CCTV'S AND AN ALARM SYSTEM AT THE RESIDENCE IN MID-SEPTEMBER. THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL CAPABLE OF MONITORING THIS SYSTEM AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE MSG AT THE POST INSIDE THE RESIDENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. THE RSO WILL MEET WITH THE DAMASCUS POLICE IN ORDER TO TRY TO SECURE PERMISSION TO RECRUIT AND ARM RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE RESIDENCE. THE GROUP WILL BE TRAINED IN THE USE OF FIREARMS AND INSTRUCTED IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CCTV'S AND ALARM SYSTEM WITH THE AIM OF REPLACING THE MSG POST WHEN THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS.

CURRENT DETACHMENT T.O. OF 10 IS ADEQUATE. EACH MAN IS ON POST FOR APPROX 43 HOURS PER WEEK. AMBASSADOR AND ADMIN OFFICER CONCUR. SEELYE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: MSG POST AT AMBASSADOR\'S RESIDENCE

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